Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

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UNCLAS LA PAZ 1643

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI, BL, SM

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN- CHILEAN RELATIONS.

ON MARCH 23 BOLIVIA CELEBRATES THE "DAY OF THE SEA", RECALLING THE LOSS OF ITS SEACOAST TO CHILE IN THE WAR OF THE PACIFIC. THIS YEAR AS IN PAST YEARS THE WEEK-LONG COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS INCLUDE VITRIOLIC ATTACKS ON CHILE'S REFUSAL TO "REVISE" THE TREATY OF 1904 WHICH LEGALIZED BOLIVIA'S TERRITORIAL LOSS. AN ADDED TWIST TO THIS YEARS DENOUNCEMENTS INVOLVES CHILE'S SUPPORT FOR THE ABROGATION

OF THE 1903 PANAMA CANAL ZONE TREATY AT THE PANAMA SC MEETING, WHICH HAS BEEN SEIZED ON BY BOLIVIA TO PRESS ITS OWN DEMAND FOR ABROGATION OF THE 1904 TREATY. ALL THREE MARCH 22 LA PAZ DAILIES CARRIED EDITORIALS DENOUNCING CHILE'S DOUBLE ATTITUDES VIS- A- VIS THE CANAL ZONE TREATY AND THE 1904 CHILEAN-BOLIVIAN TREATY. THE EDITORIALS SEIZED CHILEAN UNDER SECRETARY QUINTERO'S STATEMENT THAT THE 1904 TREATY IS "UNTOUCHABLE AS IT WAS FREELY AGREED TO BY BOTH PARTIES" TO POINT OUT CHILE'S COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR BOLIVIA'S INTERESTS. EL DIARIO CALLED CHILE'S ATTITUDE "DOUBLE AND INDEFENSIBLE", WHILE PRESENCIA CHARGED IT REPRESENTED A "FLAGRANT DIPLOMATIC CONTRADICTION". ALL EDITORIALS CALLED ON CHILE TO BEGIN POSITIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH BOLIVIA TO SEEK A "SATISFACTORY" SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. UNCLASSIFIED

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